parancy in the Export-Import Policies and eliminate or minimise quantitative restrictions, licencing and other discretionary controls. The Policy aims at encouraging exports and facilitating imports-linked to exports besides ensuring availability of mases consumpation items. Import liberalisation mainly focusses on promoting efficiency, productivity and quality Import of Indian industry/ products besides improving competitiveness. liberalisation is being effected in a phased manner and cautiously giving sufficient time for the indigenous industry to adjust and with care taken to ensure that small scale sector is not affected.

New markets for Tobacco in North Africa

114. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board sent a team to North Africa to find new markets;

(b) if so, the results of this visit; and

(c) the quantity of tobacco exported so far during 1995-96 to North Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A trade delegation visited Iran, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt in June'95.

(b) The salient results of the visit are as under:

(i) The Algerian side agreed to call for tenders for about 1500 tons of Indian tobacco in August/September, 1995.

(ii) The Tunisian side agreed to consider sending a technical delegation to India to assess suitability of Indian tobacco for their cigarette blends.

(iii) The Egyptian Government Tobacco Company agreed to consider imports of Indian tobacco.

(c) During 1995-96 so far only 50 tons of tobacco has been exported to Egypt.

Poverty alleviation schemes in Karnataka

115. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted any poverty alleviation schemes to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the assistance sought in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) No poverty alleviation scheme has been submitted by the State Government of Karnataka to the Central Government. However, three major on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented for poverty alleviation in the rural areas of Karnataka, are : (1) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (2) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY): and (3) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The allocations for these schemes during the current financial year 1995-96 are as follows:

Scheme		(Rs. in lakhs)
IRDP		2797.00
JRY	1st stream	16875.55
	2nd stream	1882.00
EAS		8080.00 (Release)

No specific allocation is made under the scheme of EAS as this is demand-driven).

Strengthening Trade Ties with Republics of CIS

116. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to re-establish and strengthen